5 FAH-2 H-650
SATELLITE COMMUNICATION

(TL:TEL-1; 07-01-1998))

5 FAH-2 H-651 GENERAL POLICY

(TL:TEL-1; 07-01-1998)
(Uniform State/USAID/USIA)

According to 5 FAM 500 all Department domestic organizations and missions abroad must address telecommunications outages and recovery actions in their contingency plans. IRM supports the use of satellite communication as a contingency measure in a crisis situation or in the event of telephone and telegraphic circuit outage. IRM/OPS/ITI/TWD/WLS (IT Infrastructure, Telecommunications Wireless and Data Services Division, Wireless Services Branch) manages the satellite program for contingency voice communications and provides posts with either tactical satellite terminals that use special military protocols or commercial INMARSAT (International Maritime Satellite Organization) satellite terminals. DTS-PO provides satellite terminals for primary or backup data communications.

5 FAH-2 H-652 INMARSAT TERMINALS

(TL:TEL-1; 07-01-1998)
(Uniform State/USAID/USIA)

a. INMARSAT (International Maritime Satellite Organization) terminals are digital satellite interfaces that provide telephone, data and facsimile communication to and from mobile subscribers anywhere within the worldwide coverage area of the INMARSAT system, from 70 degrees South to 70 degrees North.

b. INMARSAT terminals modulate voice or data signals into radio signals, which are transmitted to a pre-selected satellite, then redirected to an earth station, to the receiving unit and demodulated into voice or data signals. To a user the INMARSAT operates like a telephone. The user can simply pick up the INMARSAT telephone handset and dial the telephone number of another telephone or a special dialing sequence for another INMARSAT.

5 FAH-2 H-653 CONTINGENCY VOICE TERMINALS

5 FAH-2 H-653.1 Installation

(TL:TEL-1; 07-01-1998)
(Uniform State/USAID/USIA)

IRM personnel at post or a RIMC technician can install the necessary satellite hardware and peripherals and configure according to post needs. To use INMARSAT terminals in the secure mode, the units must be connected to a STU III.

5 FAH-2 H-653.2 Testing and Maintenance

(TL:TEL-1; 07-01-1998)
(Uniform State/USAID/USIA)

To ensure the operational readiness of the equipment the IPO must implement a monthly test schedule of satellite terminals and train key personnel as directed by post management. If equipment malfunctions, contact the RIMC or IRM/OPS/ITI/TWD/WLS for troubleshooting or repair/return instructions.

5 FAH-2 H-653.3 INMARSAT M Terminal

(TL:TEL-1; 07-01-1998)
(Uniform State/USAID/USIA)

a. The Department has deployed various types of INMARSAT terminals to overseas posts. The INMARSAT M terminal has been the most widely disseminated because of its overall utility, low cost and ease of use in all contingency applications.

b. The M terminal is compact, lightweight, portable and housed in a durable, hard plastic briefcase. The bottom piece contains the main control unit, power supply, telephone handset, antenna pointing map and a panel port for a PC, telephone, fax, AC power and DC power. The detachable lid functions as an antenna to carry the satellite signal between the satellite and main control unit.

5 FAH-2 H-653.3-1 Emergency Use

(TL:TEL-1; 07-01-1998)
(Uniform State/USAID/USIA)

The Operations Center, S/S-O, will pay costs associated with using satellite communications during a crisis, if the post receives prior

authorization from S/S-O.

5 FAH-2 H-653.3-2 Discretionary Use

(TL:TEL-1; 07-01-1998)
(Uniform State/USAID/USIA)

Posts may use the INMARSAT M terminals without prior authorization from S/S-O, but all associated costs will be paid by post. Contact DTS-PO for the current per-minute charge. Maintenance charges for repairing damages that exceed regular deterioration through normal use will also be paid by post.

5 FAH-2 654 CONTINGENCY DATA TERMINALS

(TL:TEL-1; 07-01-1998)
(Uniform State/USAID/USIA)

Where DTS-PO has provided and authorized an MCS-9120LB 64 Kbps INMARSAT system as a backup for post's data communications, DTS-PO will pay the usage charges for the data communications. Due to the high costs for 64 Kbps service, the system, as a general rule, should not be on-the-air on a full time basis, unless critical operational circumstances dictate otherwise, e.g., emergencies and time-critical traffic. The frequency and duration of INMARSAT activation to support immediate operational requirements or to process urgent correspondence is an IPO or ITO call, however, this is generally expected not to exceed two hours over a 24-hour period. Post should maintain accurate records of INMARSAT activation and on-air time. DTS-PO does not fund voice or fax, with the exception of that required by the PCC to establish the INMARSAT data communications link.

5 FAH-2 H-655 THROUGH H-659 UNASSIGNED